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Foundations of College Writing

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Men and Women at College

**Problem**

About around the age of three, people might start to notice the difference between boys and girls. When you are younger, boys are different because they have “cuties”. As time goes by, there starts to be more obvious differences between men and women. It is not just physical differences, there are differences between the way we talk, walk, speak and think. Then, you become an adult and it is time to go off and start college. Even though men and women may go to the same college, have the same classes and even live in the same hall, there are differences in their experiences. Even if men and women are doing the same activities, why do they perceive that the experience is different? In this paper I am going to give some background as to why this may be. Then I am going to talk about the studies I did to show the similarities and differences. I will then draw conclusions about culture and what it means to be educated from my data.

**Background**

I found very interesting articles about things that will affect my topic. The first article, written by Charles E. Werts,is called; *A Comparison of Male vs. Female Attendance Probabilities.*1 This article gives the example of a man who in 1966 won $56,000. When he was asked what he would do with the money, he said he would use it to send his two sons to college. But, he was sure his two daughters could get married.2 This shows that in this time period people didn’t really care about women being educated and we might still be trying to break this belief today.3

In an article written by Sarah J. Gervais, she did an experiment about how men and women were effect by being patronized in a stereotypically Masculine Domain. She found that, “U.S women tend to have lower expectations for positive outcomes, less confidence, fewer perceptions of control, and worse performance relative to men (Gervais, 481). She also found that women worry about confirming negative gender stereotypes. This may be why Libby Sander wrote that women do more work and get more involved with the college community. She also wrote that men spend more time playing games and watching TV. This seems like something very stereotypical and I will later be finding if these are things that truly happen or not. Sander feels as if men are still getting ahead in the world because they are more likely to talk to professors and network. This is the way that others perceive what the experience is like in college, the question is, is it true?

1 Introduce

2 Insert

3 Interpret

As the world gets more modern, women and getting more power. It is said that women have outpaced men in enrollment (Engstrom, 407). Craig L. Engstrom wrote an article about drinking related to masculinity. She feels that men do things to show their masculinity such as displaying sexual and aggressive posters, banging on doors or storytelling. This could be one of the reasons why there is a difference between college experience for males and females. This brings me to the question is the male and female experience very different, if so why? Also, what perceptions play into these differences?

**Method**

To find the answers I was looking for, I recorded time diaries of both males and females to see how they spent their time. I also interviewed males and females and asked them the following questions: 1) What were your motivations for coming to college? I used this question to see if males and females had similar or different reason for coming to college. 2) What do you think people of the opposite sex spend most of their time doing? I used this question to see there was any stereotyping of what people of the opposite sex do in college. 3) What do you spend most of your time doing? I wanted to see if this question would contradict or go along with the stereotypes that were given in question 3. 4) Would your college experience be different if you were of the opposite sex, if yes than why? I obviously used this question to find out why college experience is different for males and females.

**Finding**

**Male/Sophomore**

10:00am - 4:00pm – Work

4:00pm - 4:15pm - Eat

4:15pm - 6:00pm - Schoolwork

6:00pm - 8:00pm - Workout at REC

8:00pm - 8:30pm - Shower

8:30pm - 9:30pm - Play NFL with friends

9:30pm - 10:00pm - Get food with friends

10:00pm - 12:00am - Watch breaking bad on Netflix

12:00am - 10:00am – Sleep

**Male/Sophomore**

11:00am - 11:30am - Clean room

11:30am - 12:00pm - Eat

12:00pm - 3:00pm - Play games at REC

3:00pm - 3:30pm - Shower

3:30pm - 5:30pm - Watch Game of Thrones

5:30pm - 6:00pm - Eat

6:00pm - 8:00pm - Homework

8:00pm - 10:00pm - Play videogames

10:00pm - 12:00am - More Game of Thrones

12:00am - 11:00am – Sleep

(Coelho, 2013)

**Freshman Boy**

8:30 a.m. wake up

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Watch T.V

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Ate breakfast

10:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. Class

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Worked out

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Ate dinner

6:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. Did homework and watched T.V.

12:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Slept

**Freshman Boy**

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Ate lunch

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Studied

5:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. Class

6:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. Studied

8:15 p.m. – 9:45 p.m. Ate

9:45 p.m. – 2:00 a.m. Studied and watched T.V.

2:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Slept

10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. Class

11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Breakfast

12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. Class

There are some conclusions that can be drawn about the time diaries of men. All of the males in this study had watched t.v. or played video games in this twenty four hour span. We will see later when I talk about the interviews why this is an important part of my research. Also, all the gyms except for one went to the Rec center to do some type of physical activity. Now, I am going to show the females’ time diaries.

**Freshman girl**

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Eating

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Class

3:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Homework

6:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. Hung out with friend

10:30 p.m. – 12:30 a.m. Skyped with friend

12 :30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Slept

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Got ready for class

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Had class

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Ate lunch

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Had class

**Freshman Girl**

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Ate lunch

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Went to Dunkin Donuts

3:15 p.m. – 5:30 Nap

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Ate Dinner

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Watched t.v

8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Watched a movie

11:00 p.m. – 9:30 a.m. Slept

9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Just hung out

**Freshman Girl**

9:00 a.m. woke up

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Class

12:30 p.m. Lunch

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Class

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Studied did homework

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. miscellaneous

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Ate dinner

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Did Zumba

8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. miscellaneous

11:30 p.m. – 7:00 a.m. slept

8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m. Class

**Female, Freshman:**

9:00: woke up

11-12:15: class

12:30: lunch

2-3:15: class

3:30-4:30: study/homework

4:30-5:30: miscellaneous

5:30-7: dinner

7:00-8:00: Zumba

8:00-11:00- miscellaneous

11:30/12:00- sleep

7:00: woke up

8:00 to 8:50: class

From looking at the data that I collected from the time diaries is that there is not much deviation in females’ days and males’ days. This makes me wonder how the college experience can be so different when men and women are almost doing the same things in their days. To further investigate this topic, I interviewed five females and four males.1 I asked them the four questions listed about in **Method.**

When I asked about the motivation to come to college, all nine of them said that they wanted to further their education and get a good job.2 This can’t hold true for every person at college but for my purposes let’s just say that this is one thing that males and females commonly come to college for the same reasons.3 Next, I asked about what other sexes do. This got a wide variety of answers. The males said that females hangout ( which includes spending time with friends), going out, studying and sleeping.

1 Introduce

2 Insert

3 Interpret

The variety of these answered surprised me because I thought there would be a standard answer or a stereotype. However, asking females about males’ use of time was dramatically different. Four out of the five girls said that males spend most of their time gaming, one said sleeping. If you look at the time diaries above, most of the men did spend time watching movies or playing games, but they did a variety of other activates as well.

The next question I asked, what you do in your spare time, was the question that showed that boys and girls don’t really know what the opposite sex does. There of the five girls said they spent most of their time hanging out with friends and two said that they spent most of their time studying. For my study, I will assume that females spend most of their time hanging out with friends or studying. When I asked the males the same question, four of the males said that they spend most of their time studying and one said that they spend most of their time sleeping. But, not one girl said that boys spend majority of time studying! I find this to be one of the most interesting parts of my study. Finally, I asked them if they thought their experiences would be different if the were of the opposite sex. All nine of them said yes. Two of the girls answered because if they were boys then they would have less worries and more freedom. This relates back to the article written by Sanders in the sense that girls have to work harder in school. But, other people had a hard time telling my why it would be different if they were the opposite sex. This makes me think that males and females think that they are a lot different when in reality, they aren’t.

**Conclusion**

Based on the data that I have found, I have come to the conclusion that what people perceive about males’ and females’ college experience isn’t entirely true. There tends to be a stereotype that men spend more time engaging in video games than in their studies. But, four out of the five guys I interviewed said the spent a majority of time studying. I think this indicates that people have misconceptions of others. Some of these stereotypes can come from movies or anything in the media. I think the major reason why women feel that they have to work so hard is because they feel that they still need to prove themselves. It is still a new concept of women being able to get a higher education. This is proven by the fact that men usually get higher paying possessions. Joann Wiener wrote, “In 2011, women working full-time earned about 77 cents for each dollar that a man earned, according to data compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics”. This makes women feel that they need to work harder in college to get a better job.

What does this tell me about college culture? This shows that people have misperceptions about what actually happens in college. I think this manly come from movies. From a young age, you watch the college movies and they are always at parties and doing other things. What you don’t see, is how much work gets put into college. This work is done by both males and female. What does this tell me about what it means to be educated? This study actually taught me a lot and it helped educate me. I also felt like women did more work than men because I always see guys just hanging out watching TV. My interviews showed me that a lot of men put in the time and effort just like women do. I learned from this study that men and women in college do about the same things and that our experiences aren’t as different as I once thought. Overall, I think that we would all understand each other more if we took a better look at what others are doing an feeling. I think if we took the time to do this the world would be a much better place.

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